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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABUJA 003351

SIPDIS

STATE FOR AF/W AND EB/TPP
GENEVA PASS USTR
STATE PASS USTR FOR PCOLEMAN
COMMERCE FOR ITA MAC

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/19/2012
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [PINR](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: NIGERIA: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ON MINISTER OF
COMMERCE NGELELE

REF: COLEMAN/KRZYWDA EMAIL 12/17/02

Classified by CDA Timothy D. Andrews; Reason 1.5 (d).

1. (C) Precious Ngelele is a native of Rivers State. A former Abuja Poloff believes Ngelele is a U.S. citizen. We know he lived in the United States for many years before returning to Nigeria in 1999. Poloff reports Ngelele is divorced or separated from a U.S.-citizen spouse, with whom he had several children. Ngelele currently lives in Abuja with a women from a South-South ethnic group who is not permitted to marry because of her position in a royal family. (Note: Ngelele's Nigerian colleagues may not be aware that he is a U.S. citizen. The 1999 Constitution of the Republic of Nigeria requires that ministers and other GON officials hold Nigerian citizenship only. End Note.)

2. (C) At one point Ngelele may have supported President Obasanjo's top opponent for the 1999 PDP presidential nomination, Alex Ekueme, but in the end he backed Obasanjo and after the election was named Minister of State for Water Resources. Post has been unable to obtain additional information on Minister Ngelele's pre-1999 educational or professional background.

3. (C) The former Poloff reports that Ngelele has a low-key personality and is well disposed to the United States.
ANDREWS